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MAINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
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EARLE G. SHETTLEWORTH, JR.
DIRECTOR

December 19, 2013

Sean Murphy
HDR Engineering, Inc.
970 Baxter Boulevard, Suite 301
Portland, ME 04103-5346

Project: MHPC# 2628-01 - **FERC Project No. 2897**; Saccarappa Project, License
Surrender Application
Town: Westbrook, ME

Dear Mr. Murphy:

In response to your recent request, we have reviewed the information received November 14, 2013 to continue consultation on the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended.

It is our understanding that the proposed undertaking consists of the removal of the east dam and possible excavation of a channel on the east side of the island in an area of existing historic mill foundations. No surveys of the island have been conducted and no sites have been documented. The historic maps (1857, 1871, copies enclosed) are not particularly helpful in determining what existed historically in this area, but it is clear that mill-related features are present. Furthermore, it is unclear from the information provided to us what areas on the island will be disturbed to enable access to the east dam. Therefore, the Commission recommends that a Phase I historic archaeological survey be conducted to identify the range of resources present on the island and particularly those areas that have the potential to be impacted by removal of the east dam and possible excavation of a channel on the east side of the island. This survey will require a more detailed plan of the proposed east dam removal and associated modifications and work areas on the island.

As noted in your November 12, 2013 letter, the Saccarappa Station was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places during the 2003 relicensing process. The documentation prepared in 1997 for the eligible hydro facility describes the 1907 dam as comprised of two sections located on the east and west sides of the island. Since the dam is integral to the operation of the facility, we consider it to be an important character defining feature of the National Register eligible property. We also conclude that the removal of some or all of the dam will have an adverse effect upon this historic property.

Regarding potential impacts to the National Register listed Cumberland & Oxford Canal, the canal passes west of and parallel to much of the section of the river between the Saccarappa and Mallison Falls dams. A Phase I Historic Archaeological Survey of the Presumpscot Hydroelectric Projects in 1997 identified two areas in Sections 9 and 15, respectively, that were

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subject to active erosion due to water level fluctuations. Due to this finding the two areas should be assessed for condition when lower water levels have been established following the removal of the east dam. The lowering of the river may help to reduce further negative impacts to these areas, but stabilization of the towpath bank may be needed to prevent further degradation from natural processes.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6(a), the federal agency shall consult with our office and other consulting parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects on this historic property. To our knowledge, no alternatives were considered for this project. We request that written alternatives (especially ways to either avoid or minimize adverse effects) be submitted to our office for review and comment.

FERC must notify the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) of our adverse effect finding and invite them to participate in consultation pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6(a)(1). FERC must include with its notice to the ACHP all the documentation specified in 36 CFR Part 800.11(e).

We look forward to continuing consultation with you on the proposed license surrender application. Please contact Robin Reed of our staff if we can be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk F. Mohnney". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kirk F. Mohnney
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enc.

cc. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary, U.S. FERC



